

REMARKS

At the time the present Office Action was mailed (May 21, 2007) claims 1-40 were pending in the application. In this response, claims 1, 7 and 25 have been amended, claims 6 and 8 have been cancelled, and new claims 41-47 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7 and 9-47 are pending.

In the May 21, 2007 Office Action, claims 1-7, 9 and 10 were rejected, claim 8 was objected to, and claims 11-40 were allowed. More specifically, claims 1-7, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,871,517, to Abrams et al. ("Abrams"), and claim 8 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In this response, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 8 and claim 6, from which claim 8 depends, without commenting on or conceding the merits of the outstanding rejection of claim 1, and without prejudice to pursuing claim 1 in its original or other form in a continuation or other application. Accordingly, the outstanding Section 103 rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5, 9 and 10 depend from claim 1, and claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, the outstanding Section 103 rejections of these dependent claims should be withdrawn for at least the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

Claims 11-40 were allowed. Of these claims, claim 25 has been amended to correct an informality, without changing the scope of this claim.

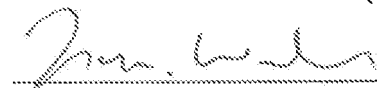
New claims 41-47 have been added to depend from allowed claim 40. Support for these claims may be found in the application as filed at, *inter alia*, paragraphs 44-48, paragraphs 40-43, Figure 5, paragraph 71, and paragraph 105.

The present application should now be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner discovers any informalities or other matters that can be expediently handled by telephone, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 359-3257.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 337348048US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,
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